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## **NEWS/MEDIA ALERT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, February 18, 2010

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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### **Preparedness Coalition introduces Spanish translation, subtitled versions of Disaster Preparedness film**

**WHAT:** 2010 Disaster Preparedness Awareness Campaign introduction of Spanish language translation and subtitled versions of Disaster Preparedness film.

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 3

**WHERE:** Sussex Central High School, 26026 Patriot's Way, Georgetown

**WHO:** The public is invited to share in the introduction of important new preparedness education products along with Gov. Jack Markell, Secretary of Education Lillian Lowery, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security Lewis Schiliro, Director of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency James E. Turner III, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police Colonel Robert Coupe, Sussex Central Principal Timothy Capone and other elected officials, educators and members of the law enforcement community and emergency response partners.

**NOTE:** There will be a Spanish translator and a signer to ensure that all attending are aware of comments of the speakers.

Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. They can force you and your family to be confined to or evacuated from your home. Families should prepare for disasters in advance.

With the goal of educating all Delawareans on how to prepare for a disaster, this year the Disaster Preparedness Coalition is expanding the campaign to reach all Delaware students, the Spanish speaking population, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing or have developmental

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disabilities. This multi-faceted approach will increase the number of Delaware citizens who are prepared for disasters, whether natural or technological. The recent heavy snow fall illustrated how many can lose power and sometimes be confined to their homes for several days during a State of Emergency and while roads are cleared. Manmade disasters, such as a hazardous chemical spill or even a terrorist event, could disrupt travel or cause evacuation.

The goal of the partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Delaware Public Health, Red Cross, Delaware Citizens Corp, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Delaware State Police is to educate Delawareans on preparedness for whatever disruptive events might occur.

The film prepared by the coalition has instructions and provides guidance to individuals and families on how to create an emergency plan and how to stock an emergency supply kit to carry you safely and comfortably through such events. The new Spanish language translation and a version that includes subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing will take the preparedness message to an even broader audience and help Delaware be a State of Preparedness.

The Disaster Preparedness Awareness Campaign will introduce these two new versions to the public with a news conference at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 3, at Sussex Central High School, 26026 Patriots Way, Georgetown. Those supporting this important event include Governor Jack Markell, Secretary of Education Lillian Lowery, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security Lewis Schiliro, Delaware Emergency Management Agency Director James Turner III, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police Colonel Robert Coupe, Sussex Central Principal Timothy Capone as well as numerous School Resource and Youth Aid Officers from school districts statewide.

The public is invited to attend the news conference kick-off of **2010 Disaster Preparedness Awareness Campaign**.

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**MEDIA-**

We welcome your attendance. Please RSVP to Rosanne Pack, DEMA PIO, 302-222-6573 or [Rosanne.pack@state.de.us](mailto:Rosanne.pack@state.de.us) or Sgt. Walter Newton, DSP PIO, 302-841-2553, or [Walter.newton@state.de.us](mailto:Walter.newton@state.de.us).